

Theatre Appreciation

A Global Learning¹ Foundations Course

THE 2000 – Theatre Appreciation (Online, Hybrid or In Person)

Instructor and Office Hours:

Name (Office Location)

Telephone number, email

Catalog Description – A study of theatre: process and product, introducing the past of theatre, its literature and traditions; and the means by which theatre is produced: acting, directing and visual design.

Course Description – Theatre is inherently global in nature because it is rooted in the universal human need to explore, understand, come to grips with, and justify mankind's relationship with the world that surrounds and sustains us, and the worlds in our individual and collective minds, hearts and souls. Theatre serves two main purposes. The first is to enlighten us about the worst and the best of the innumerable perspectives of the human condition. The second is to entertain us, lift our spirits. Theatre is designed to affect our emotions and our perceptions: when we let stuff in it can change how we think, feel and act. Theatre in practice places a high value on the precepts of teamwork. It serves as a model for the intrinsic interconnectedness of any human endeavor. It is constantly proving that the results of respectful collaboration are invariably greater than working alone. The function of this course is to instill in the student an understanding and appreciation of the art of theatre – from its primitive origins in ritual and storytelling – to all its contexts; social, intercultural, spiritual, historical, political, philosophical and practical.

Learning Outcomes– Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the origins of theatre in various parts on the world.
2. Identify and describe the purposes of theatre and its social and philosophical relevance.
3. Analyze the development of theatre forms and architecture.
4. Analyze the expectations, perceptions, and responses of audiences.
5. Compare and contrast the functions of commercial and not-for-profit theatre.
6. Compare and contrast the types of theatre companies in South Florida.
7. Compare and contrast major genres of plays throughout history and in contemporary theatre.
8. Analyze the parts of a play and their functions.
9. Identify and analyze the parts of a theatrical production.
10. Analyze and evaluate plays and performances.
11. Identify and evaluate the functions of collaborative artists who create theatre.
12. Identify and describe the major historical eras of theatre.
13. Compare and contrast the major styles of modern theatre.

Global Learning Outcomes – Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the theatrical performance as the product of interrelationships among participants (e.g. actors, audience, director, playwright, designers, critics) and context (e.g. history, current events, culture).
2. Analyze how theatre treats universal themes in various ways across the world.
3. Engage with diverse others to produce a theatrical performance or product.

¹ This is a Global Learning Foundations Course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

Structure:

This course utilizes the following modalities of teaching

1. Journals
2. Video Presentation/Live Theatre productions
3. Case Studies
4. Lecture/PowerPoint Presentation
5. Group Discussions
6. Quizzes
7. Turnitin.com

Assignments

Exam(s)

Case Studies

Paper on Assigned Productions

Quizzes and Group Discussions

Final Online or In Person Theatre Project

Case Studies:

Students will be assigned to apply the definitions of classical tragedy and classical comedy and the concepts of structural play analysis to a proctored viewing of videotaped versions of classic plays.

Paper:

Students are to submit a personal essay commenting on and/or comparing your live theatre experiences: The paper will reflect how you were intellectually and/or emotionally stimulated by the contributions to the production by the collaborative artists. This is statement of your observations and opinions of the performance supported by descriptive examples from the production that prove your point This assignment cannot be completed without attending the approved theatre performance(s).

Exam(s) and Quizzes:

Quizzes and exams will consist of essay, short-answer and/or multiple choice questions, and may cover productions seen, and material from readings throughout the term.

Group Discussion:

Students will be asked to contribute to a group discussion detailing how plays or productions in different cultures use the exploration of a specific universal theme to suggest potential solutions to a current social problem.

Production Attendance:

Students are required to attend at least one Live Theatre Production. If possible students should attend FIU Theatre's productions. Additional information will follow.

Final Theatre Project (Online):

The project should address each student's special interest in any one aspect of theatre. Focus on seeing theatre through the eyes of theatre practitioners locally and/or around the world. A written proposal must be presented to, and approved by, the instructor before any work can begin on a project. The project should include online practical and written elements. Examples could be creating a small theatre event, getting involved with a theatre group or organization like the Hispanic Theatre Festival or writing a script that explores a new world view. Group projects are encouraged. An online record, i.e. video of the work will be posted by the student(s).

Final Theatre Project (Hybrid, In Person):

The class will be divided into groups of three to six and assigned a specific duty to complete towards the rehearsal and performance of the group final project: A Showcase of Scenes.

Grading/Evaluation – Course grades will be determined on the basis of an accumulation of points. As we move through the semester's work, the points you earn for each assignment you complete will be recorded and converted into percentages on the Blackboard Learn web page for this class. You will be able to track your grade throughout the semester by clicking on "My Grades" in our class website.

94 – 100% = A; 90 – 93% = A-; 87 - 89% = B+; 84 – 86% = B; 80 – 83% = B-; 77 – 79% = C+; 74 – 76% = C; 70 – 73% = C-; 67 – 69% = D+; 64 – 66% = D; 60 – 63% = D-; 59 and below = F.

The following should be considered an approximation only:

Midterm	100 points.
Reaction Papers	100 points.
Final Project	125 points.
Quizzes and daily assignments	75 points.
Rehearsals	80 points.
Total possible points	480 points.

Required Texts:

The texts are compiled from **Theatre: Brief Version** by Cohen published by McGraw-Hill Primis. Each has been customized specifically for the class and contains only the chapters we are going to read. The soft cover copy is available in the bookstore. You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#). You are looking for:

Text for Theatre Appreciation Online

Theatre Appreciation Online (Stephen Neal)
McGraw Hill (2012)
ISBN-13: 9781121606838, Soft Cover
There is also an eBook version available that contains the same material.
<https://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/#/catalog/details/?isbn=9781121601161>

Text for Theatre Appreciation Hybrid or In Person

Theatre Appreciation, THE 2000 In Person (Stephen Neal)
McGraw Hill
ISBN – 9781308145112

Interdisciplinary Media:

- [Theatre in Video](#)
- [The International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance](#)
- [World Shakespeare Project](#)
- [Kabuki Theatre](#)
- [Global Theatre Project Blog](#)

LibGuide for Global Theatre Resources.

NOTE: Additional instructions for all projects will be given at the appropriate time. Additions, deletions, and/or adjustments to the course outline may be made as necessary in order to meet the needs of a particular class.